

There is one thing that I would like to be remembered for by my colleagues and that is that John McCormack was always the Members' Speaker. . . . It is because of the intense love I have in my heart for the House of Representatives and the deep respect I have for all Members. And also for the fact that whenever a Member takes the Chair as Speaker he represents all of the

Members without regard to political party; to protect their rights under the Rules of the House of Representatives; and, even more, protecting their rights on a broader scale where that is necessary. I have always tried to impartially carry out the Rules of the House of Representatives.

B. PARTY CAUCUS OR CONFERENCE

§ 2. In General; Nature and Purposes

The primary party organizations in the House are the Democratic Caucus and the Republican Conference. Generally, the Democratic Caucus is composed of all Democratic Members of the House,⁽⁷⁾ and the Republican Conference is composed of all Republican Members.⁽⁸⁾ The main func-

tions of the two party organizations are to promote unity; to determine party policy with respect to anticipated legislation; to select their respective candidates for the Speakership and other offices in the House; to choose party leaders; and to play a role in selecting party members for positions on

7. See Rule 1, Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971).

8. See Riddick, Floyd M., *Congressional Procedure*, Chapman and Grimes (Boston, 1941), p. 31.

Collateral references: Binkley, Wilfred Ellsworth, *American Political Parties; Their Natural History*, 4th edition, rev., Alfred A. Knoph Co. (New York, 1972); Fine, Nathan, *Labor and Farmer Parties in the United States, 1828-1928*, Russell and Russell (New York, 1961); Haynes, Frederick E., *Third Party Movements Since the Civil War*, Russell and Russell (New York, 1966);

Hesseltine, William B., *Third Party Movements in the United States*, Van Nostrand (Princeton, N.J., 1962); Hicks, John Donald, *The Populist Revolt; A History of the Farmers' Alliance and the People's Party*, University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, 1961); Nash, Howard Pervear, *Third Parties in American Politics*, Public Affairs Press (Washington, D.C., 1959); Ripley, Randall B., *Party Leaders in the House of Representatives*, The Brookings Institution (Washington, 1967) pp. 41-46 (development of party caucuses); Steadman, Murry Salisbury and Susan W. Stedman, *Discontent at the Polls; A Study of Farmer and Labor Parties, 1827-1948*, Russell and Russell (New York, 1967).

House committees. These functions are discussed in detail in succeeding sections.

§ 3. Chairmen—Functions

At the beginning of a Congress, the Democratic Caucus and Republican Conference elect chairmen.⁽⁹⁾

The chairman has duties and functions which are to some extent specified in the caucus or conference rules. Thus, the following rule defines the authority of the Democratic Caucus Chairman with respect to determining the time and place of caucus meetings:

Meetings of the Democratic caucus may be called by the chairman upon

9. See 8 Cannon's Precedents §§3603, 3604a; *Cannon's Procedure in the House of Representatives*, H. Doc. No. 122, 86th Cong. 1st Sess. (1959) p. 187; Riddick, Floyd M., *Congressional Procedure*, Chapman and Grimes (Boston, 1941), pp. 31, 32.

The chairman of the caucus for the preceding Congress may call the initial meeting to order. See *Cannon's Procedure in the House of Representatives*, H. Doc. No. 122, 86th Cong. 1st Sess. (1959), p. 187.

For discussion of more recent developments, including procedures for calling an organizational meeting of the caucus prior to the opening of a new Congress, see supplements to this edition as they appear.

his own motion and shall be called by him whenever requested in writing by 50 members of the caucus or at the request of the party leader. While the House is in session the Democratic caucus shall meet regularly at a time and place to be determined by the chairman, on the third Wednesday of each month, except January of odd numbered years. If the House not be in session on the third Wednesday, the monthly caucus shall be held on the next succeeding Wednesday on which the House is in session. The chairman may cancel any monthly caucus, but not two consecutive monthly caucuses, provided members are given reasonable notice of such cancellation.⁽¹⁰⁾

The caucus rules also delimit the role of the chairman in determining the order and nature of business to be transacted at caucus meetings. The caucus rules provide that, at each monthly caucus,

. . . members shall have the right to place before the caucus any question, provided that notice of such intention is (1) delivered to the office of the chairman, and (2) transmitted to all members of the caucus not later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth day immediately preceding the day of such caucus. The chairman shall prescribe the order of business and shall provide members with an agenda at least 5 days before caucus. Amendments to the agenda shall be in order only if

10. Rule 3, Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971). For general discussion of the caucus rules, see §4, *infra*.